Interview Between Hugh, C. McDonald, Author Of *APPOINTMENT IN DALLAS* And Rick Bennett, President Of Hagoth Corporation - 6/29/76

RHB: Ok, Mr. McDonald. Thank you. Just a minute, I have to clear my throat. Didn't start talking yet today.

1 MCD: *Is this for a* newspaper magazine or what, Rick?

RHB: Well, this is - I've got a another business, but we're just starting a local newspaper here in Issaquah, and I've also got friends on both United Press International and Associated Press, and I've been doing some stories. I'm gaining more credibility with them as far as producing stuff that they would like to print.

2 MCD: *They just,* I just, *you know, the program,* Good Morning, *America.*

RHB: Yes, I do.

3 MCD: *I was just listening to it. Rona Barrett* just *cut loose* with a full minute on Appointment in Dallas. Very, very complimentary.

RHB: Well, you know, ever since I read your book which was, Gosh, I think it just came out near the end of 1975, and from that point on I've been flabbergasted and looking for something to happen with the authorities admitting that there is a possibility of some great relevance there and I just wanted to - I think with the Senate's latest action on the Kennedy assassination, I wanted to - I think it's very appropriate that some great attention be focused on this again.

4 MCD: Great, you can *go ahead and start your interview.* How long will it take?

RHB: Just, say ten minutes or so.

5 MCD: OK, fine.

RHB: Basically, there is in my mind to allow for all possibilities, there are four possibilities. I think that we should eliminate at least two of them. There's always the possibility that the book was a setup in other words, that for some reason that someone set you up to make you think that this was the story.

6 MCD: I *understand that* and *I recognize that* but I *fail to see* any possible gain from it.

RHB: Well, I think that's true too and I notice in the front of the book that a number of the names were changed, it said, to protect people who are living. Was Mr. Kimsey's name the real name?

7 MCD: Yes, *that is the real name, Mr. Kimsey's name, so far as I know.* He was *buried* under that name.

RHB: OK. Well, your credentials are impeccable, and the book was certinly right there that you have the patent on the IDENTI-KIT then?

8 MCD: Oh, yes.

RHB: That's very interesting How long did it take you to come up with it?

9 MCD: Over a period of about three to four years totally. The patent, I think, was issued in 1961. But I began work on it in the fifties.

RHB: Very interesting. Now since the book,APPOINTMENT IN DALLAS, has there every been an attempt by Saul to contact you again?

10 MCD: *No.* But I wouldn't think there would be. *I believe, of course,* that Saul is alive, and I believe that the *Central Intelligency Agency* probably knows where he is. They surely know who he is. And I would guess they know where he is.

RHB: I would be suprised if they didn't.

11 MCD: So would I.

RHB: Have you been asked to testify before any of the Senate committees?

12 MCD: No, I have not been. I have offered to all across this nation. You see the book *sold* over *a million copies.*

RHB: Well, it's probably going to sell a lot more than if it's reprinted.

13 MCD: Yes and *I was in some seventeen cities* on sixty-three majors shows and on each one of them I offered and asked for the privilege of testifying in front of the Committee, and I have heard nothing.

RHB: And you have had no contact from any authorities?

14 MCD: *No.* No authority would contact me. I can understand that. I think that the authorities involved are *not anxious to have Saul's story come out. But it's coming out.*

RHB: Well, it's going to come out, but just like Watergate, the truth is going to come out, and I think it's due to, for whatever reason, a lot of conscientious people. Let me ask you a couple of pointed questions. Then to reiterate, and, by the way, I forgot to ask that it will be on the tape that I do have your permission to taperecord the interview?

15 MCD: Do you have what?

RHB: Do I have your permission to tape record the interview?

16 MCD: Yes, you do.

RHB: OK, thanks very much. In Washington we have a real funny law. At any rate, you do not feel there is any significant evidence to lead you to believe that someone was setting you up or putting you on then?

17 MCD: *No,* I have nothing to indicate that at all. The person who would have done that, the start of that, would have been *Kimsey.*

RHB: Um hum.

18 MCD: If his talk to me in Delaney Plaza when I was with Goldwater was a setup, I can't imagine what his point would have been. And there's where it would have had to have started.

RHB: OK and then when you, when you got the story from Saul, the recollection that you went up to the Hotel Room and showed him the transcript then was absolutely correct?

19 MCD: That's correct. *There's no question. The other thing is,* the problem was only reiterating what Herman (Kimsey) had told me. He simply confirmed it.

RHB: OK so in my mind, that really eliminated that possibility that you were set up which then, of course, the other possibility is that you had either fabricated this or imagined it. And with your credentials, I guess we'll just have to let that stand on the record.

20 MCD: Someone has to believe someone, you know. And you stop to consider with *everybody* involved in the Warren Commission, *I suspect that* the tendency to believe me is far more justified than almost anyone else in the *investigation.*

RHB: That's absolutely true.

21 MCD: So, Hell, one of the things that *bothers me* is the *nerve of* any politician *any politician* in Washington *today* questioning my - either motives or truthfulness - *there's a real problem there.*

RHB: Oh, absolutely. Especially, when they haven't gone to the trouble to corroborate your story and go into some depth with you. That, in my mind, is unforgivable. And I think you ought to play it up in the next printing of the book.

22 MCD: Yes.

RHB: That the book sold a million in copies and yet you haven't heard from anyone. So from your own lips then, you're telling me that this is truth. Right?

23 MCD: ***Of course, it's true. That is,*** the truth of Saul's story, I cannot attest to.

RHB: That's correct. But the . . . . .

24 MCD: But of those circumstances taking me to to Saul and my interview with him are all true.

RHB: OK, did you change the name of the country that you interviewed him in?

25 MCD: ***No.***

RHB: OK. I noticed that a good portion of the book and the interview with Saul was told in first person. Were you tape recording the interview?

26 MCD: No. Indeed not. No, it was not tape recorded.

RHB: So, this was just from your memory then?

27 MCD: Yes.

RHB: OK. I had a real reason for asking that because I thought possibly if there were a tape of Saul's, that someone might attempt to do a voice stress analysis on it,

28 MCD: ***Yeh,*** no.

RHB: Have you had any contact from Intelligence organizations outside the United States that you know of to ask you about?

29 MCD: ***Well,*** the Intelligence community outside of the ***United States*** found Saul for me.

RHB: OK. I just wondered, do you feel that you have been threatened in any way?

30 MCD: No.

RHB: I guess that if you were put away, that would add credibility to the book.

31 MCD: Of course. I think ***the book is the greatest shield I could have.***

RHB: Until such a time as the book is - certain facts in the book are justified.

32 MCD: ***Then I think there could be some danger.***

RHB: How about this bit of evidence that Schweiker's Committee released about the plane to Cuba being delayed for some passenger who didn't have to go through Customs?

33 MCD: Yeh, I understand. I know nothing - - *(Due to bad connection this part of the tape is not transcribed)* - - no question in my mind that is true. I have received enough information - - *(bad tape connection)* - - ***my analysis of the Warren Commission*** may have been somewhat in error simply because they may have been duped too. In spite of their information I think men as brilliant as Earl Warren and other men on that Comission must have known that. They must have realized that they were getting a one-sided exposure. But I'm convinced that the conclusion they arrived at was a foregone conclusion and a ***must*** for them.

RHB: As you indicated in your book, the fact was that they worked backwards from Oswald and not forward like an investigator should.

34 MCD: That's right.

RHB: Very interesting. Well, I sincerely appreciate your call, and your book has the ring of truth. And I've been convinced of that. I think I've got a method for forcing the issue.

35 MCD: That would be great. The newspapers at the beginning were very cautious about this story, and I don't blame them for that. You know, I think they should be cautious. But as I went across country, in the local papers in the large cities and small cities, I found a great deal of support among the news media. And I think now with the information that's coming out from Senator Schweiker's investigation, they will be turning more and more to "Appointment in Dallas" and understanding that the ring of truth and probably the seed of truth is there.

RHB: Well, I agree more fully for one other reason, and I couldn't make you aware of it before the conversation. I'm the President of a Company - we've just come out with an electronic product it's an instantaneous voice stress analyzer, and as I've reviewed your story, I've also had you on the unit, and I'm convinced that you're on the level. And I just want you to know that.

36 MCD: That's wonderful.

RHB: And this is going to be the gist of my interview and the reason that I know that I'll get wide circulation is that I'm going to issue a Press Release indicating that you're on the level based on my machine. And I've unconvered a couple of frauds. This gal in California who supposedly was kidnapped by Sasquatch. I called her and interviewed her and her witness and blew their story to pieces because during the interegation, I knew where they were lying and I could refine the questions and get them to contradict themselves.

37 MCD: Well, that's wonderful.

RHB: And I'll be glad to; as I get, publicity, send you copies of it. Is there some - should I send it to Zebra Books or what?

38 MCD: No, you can send it to my address. I'm at . . .

RHB: OK, let me get out a pen. I did have some trouble. I assumed that you were kinda lying low for pretty obvious reasons. Because they wouldn't give me your phone number. .

39 MCD: I wouldn't want my address ***printed.***

RHB: OK, well, I certainly won't do that. I'll write say -

40 MCD: How does it compare with the other stress analysis units that O'Toole uses.

Conversation closed with a sales pitch on HSI.